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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. The passing of two laws concerning the reorganization of IKA (Social Insurance Institution) and the discontinuance of separation pay for discharged employees of philanthropic agencies, has brought consternation to organized labor in Salonika. It is felt by Nationalist labor leaders in Salonika that the abolition of labor representation on the board of IKA does not serve any economic purpose, but is another attempt by the Government to restrict the power of labor. These same labor leaders feel that workers maintain IKA and, therefore, should have an important voice in its affairs. The Salonika Labor Center, and all agencies dependent upon it, sent cables protesting this action to various Government leaders.
2. The second law mentioned above is designed to relieve philanthropic institutions of a great financial burden. The law, while not deemed dangerous because of its present application, is feared because it sets a precedent which may well become accepted in all fields of work.
3. On 22 September the Union of Employees of Philanthropic Institutions staged a two hour protest strike. If the law is not changed, they intend to walk out on a strike of indefinite duration and will attempt to induce other unions to stage sympathy strikes.
4. Word has been received that the decision on the reunification problem of the tobacco workers' unions will take place during the GSEE (General Confederation of Greek Labor) plenum, scheduled to take place in Athens on 10 October. It is rumored among labor circles in Salonika that Fotis Makris, Secretary General of the GSEE, is willing to settle the problem in favor of the Tobacco Workers' Federation. This would mean that he would advocate the dissolution of the Nationalist counter-union "Omonia" and the reorganization of all tobacco workers within the Communist-dominated Pan-Tobacco Workers' Union. Reformist labor leaders in Salonika are unanimously opposed to this move because it constitutes a clear-cut victory for the Communists.

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Although no decision has been taken as yet, the mood of these labor leaders indicates that the reformists will not follow GSEE's directions, but that they will stage a revolt against Makris which may well affect other fields in which disputes have arisen between GSEE and the Salonika Labor Center, but in which, until now, the Salonika Labor Center has followed GSEE.

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